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04/28/88 103535 PRINTER: WS

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ACTION NFA-07

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-10 CIAE-00 MMO-01 NSCE-00 NSAF-00
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TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2060
SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DHAKA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 NEW DELHI 17729
FOR NFA, P/M, P/RM, P/FW, P/F, P/P VOA NEWS/CA
STATE FOR NFA/INS
STATE FOR NSC

F.O. 12356: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT NO. 133

- BEGIN SUMMARY: A PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) NEW YORK-DATED LINE REPORT JULY 22 QUOTED PAKISTAN PRIME MINISTER JUNEJO AS SAYING AT A FOREIGN POLICY ASSOCIATION MEETING THAT THE LATE PRIME MINISTER INDIRA GANDHI HAD PLANNED TO ATTACK PAKISTAN IN MAY 1984. MEANWHILE, EDITORIAL ASSESSMENT ON HIS VISIT FOCUSED ON THE "C INCIDENCE" OF AMERICAN AND PAKISTANI INTERESTS IN THE REGION. COMMENT ALSO CRITICIZED U.S. FOR PRAISING DEMOCRACY IN PAKISTAN AND FOR IGNORING ITS ATTEMPTS TO MAKE A NUCLEAR BOMB. END SUMMARY.

- JUNEJO'S U.S. VISIT
- THE PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) JULY 22 MORNING

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CARRIED M.K. RAZDAN'S NEW YORK REPORT THAT PRIME MINISTER JUNEJO "HAS COME OUT WITH A SURPRISE ALLEGATION THAT LATE PRIME MINISTER INDIRA GANDHI WAS PLANNING TO LAUNCH AN ATTACK ON HIS COUNTRY IN MAY 1984.

- JUNEJO, SPEAKING AT A MEETING OF THE FOREIGN POLICY ASSOCIATION, REPORTEDLY ADDED THAT THE SITUATION WAS "MUCH CHANGED" AFTER RAJIV GANDHI HAD COME TO POWER.

"RAJIV GANDHI HAS TAKEN STEPS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS (WITH PAKISTAN) AND WE HAVE EQUALLY RESPONDED TO THAT." PM GANDHI'S APPROACH, HE FURTHER OBSERVED, "WAS IN FAVOR OF SETTLEMENT OF ALL ISSUES."

- --EDITORIALLY, "THE HINDU" OF MADRAS COMMENTING ON JUNEJO'S WASHINGTON VISIT NOTED: "THE 1986 MESSAGE FROM WASHINGTON IS QUALITATIVELY NO DIFFERENT FROM WHAT IT HAS BEEN ALL ALONG. WHILE THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION HAS TAKEN THE FORMAL POSITION AND CERTIFIED TO THE CONGRESS

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() RELEASE () DECLASSIFY
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THAT PAKISTAN DOES NOT NOW POSSESS A NUCLEAR WEAPON AND WOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR AMERICAN AID, IT STILL DOES APPEAR CONCERNED OVER ISLAMABAD'S CLANDESTINE EFFORTS TO BUILD A BOMB.

- "NEW DELHI," THE EDITORIAL CAUTIONED, "CANNOT ANY LONGER COUNT ON FOREIGN PRESSURE HALTING PAKISTAN IN ITS NUCLEAR TRACKS, AND THE PROBLEM IS THAT THE EFFECTS IN THE REGION OF A NUCLEAR, OR EVEN A NEAR-NUCLEAR, PAKISTAN COULD BE DEEPLY UNSETTLING."

- --IN ANOTHER EDITORIAL COMMENT, "THE TIMES OF INDIA" DECLARED "JUNEJO COULD NOT HAVE HAD A MORE SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO WASHINGTON."

- "THE TIMES" FURTHER OBSERVED: "SINCE U.S.

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CONGRESSIONAL OBJECTIONS TO A SECOND, SIX-YEAR DOLLOP OF 4.02 BILLION DOLLARS IN AID, STARTING IN OCTOBER 1987, CENTER ON PAKISTAN'S ILL-DISGUISED NUCLEAR AMBITIONS AND THE DICTATORIAL CAST OF GENERAL ZIA'S REGIME, THE EMPHASIS ON THE SOVIET 'THREAT' TO PAKISTAN AND ON 'RETURN' OF 'REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY' THERE WAS CALCULATED TO PROBE THESE MISGIVINGS.

- "WHETHER THE CONGRESS HAS BEEN PERSUADED WILL

BECOME CLEAR WHEN THE TIME COMES FOR IT TO AUTHORIZE AND ALLOCATE THE AID."

- --THE "FREE PRESS JOURNAL" OF BOMBAY IN AN EDITORIAL TITLED, "REAGAN'S OTHER DEMOCRACY," WROTE: "PRESIDENT REAGAN WOULD HAVE US BELIEVE THAT PAKISTAN HAS MADE GREAT STRIDES ON THE ROAD TO DEMOCRACY, BEING POLITE AND HOSPITABLE TO AN HONORED GUEST DOESN'T CONDONE HALF-TRUTHS AND PLAIN LIES. PROBABLY, REAGAN'S WARMTH TOWARD HIS VISITOR FROM ISLAMABAD WAS MOTIVATED BY CERTAIN OTHER FACTORS. THE U.S. MILITARY INTERESTS IN THIS REGION ARE INEXTRICABLY LINKED WITH THE OPERATION OF ITS BASES IN PAKISTAN. WITH THE RUSSIAN OCCUPATION OF AFGHANISTAN PROVIDING AN ADDED EDGE TO THE STRATEGIC NEEDS OF THE U.S., PAKISTAN'S STATUS AS AN ALLY IN THE WHITE HOUSE GOT FURTHER UPGRADED.

- --ANOTHER BOMBAY PAPER, PRO-MOSCOW "DAILY" SAID: "JUNEJO HAD EVERY RIGHT TO FEEL HAPPY. HE HAS ACHIEVED WHAT EVEN BIG BOSSES, THE GENERALS OF ISLAMABAD, COULD NOT. RIGHT FROM ITS INCEPTION, PAKISTAN HAD BEEN STRIVING FOR 'PARITY' WITH INDIA. PARITY HAS BEEN AN OBSESSION WITH ALL ITS RULERS. NOW JUNEJO HAS RECEIVED

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2961

SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

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THE SAME WELCOME AT THE WHITE HOUSE AS WAS ACCORDED TO
RAJIV GANDHI...BUT THE REALITY OF THE PARITY ACHIEVED BY
JUNEJO IS THAT HE HAS TO DEPEND ON REAGAN'S 'VOW' TO HIM
FOR THE DEFENSE OF PAKISTAN'S SOVEREIGNTY AGAINST WHAT
THE PRESIDENT DESCRIBED AS 'INCREASING SOVIET PRESSURES'
AND ON HIS PROMISE TO SUPPORT 'IMPROVEMENT IN
INDO-PAKISTAN RELATIONS.' IT DOES NOT MATTER IF TO GET
THE PRESIDENT'S 'VOW' AND HIS PROMISE JUNEJO HAD TO
DISTORT THE FACTS OF THE SITUATION.

--HINDI-LANGUAGE "NAV BHARAT TIMES" EDITORIALY
ATTRIBUTED THE "EXPECTED" SUCCESS OF JUNEJO'S VISIT TO
THE U.S. TO THE "COINCIDENCE" OF AMERICAN AND PAKISTANI
INTERESTS IN THE REGION. IT ALSO CRITICIZED REAGAN AND

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THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION FOR PRAISING DEMOCRACY IN
PAKISTAN, FOR THEIR DISREGARD TO THE TIDE OF DEMOCRACY
MANIFESTED THROUGHFA MISS BHUTTO, AND FOR IGNORING
PAKISTANI ATTEMPTS TO MAKE A NUCLEAR BOMB. "INDIA'S
ONLY HOPE," IT CONCLUDED, "IS AN ALERT AND REAL

DEMOCRACY IN PAKISTAN." MCGINLEY

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